The One Hundred Thirty-Fourth
Annual Report
of the

City of New Bedford
Massachusetts

For the Year July 1, 1986 - June 30, 1987

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

NEW BEDFORD FREE PUBLIC LIBRARY

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LIBRARY EMPLOYEES FISCAL 1987

DIRECTOR: Rosemary Medeiros

LIBRARIAN III: Susan Anderson, Pauline Bolduc, Risa Goldberg

LIBRARIAN II: Joao Aguiar, Yvette Boisclair, Paul Cyr, Ann Feinstein, Ann O'Leary, Sharon Pinho, Dolores Serode, Irva Torres

LIBRARIAN I: Dale Easton

LIBRARY ASSISTANT II: Lilia Cabral, Phillip Dimor, Beverly Gracia, Olive Jadlowe*, Mary Ann McGuire, Elaine Silva*

LIBRARY ASSISTANT I: Juanita Baptista, Carol Bellefeuille, Donna Cordeiro, Andrea Monteiro, Patricia Mello, Eileen Michaud, Maria Robertson, Dineia Sylvia, Pauline Sylvia, Ruth Vital, Janet Williams

LIBRARY AIDE II: Tammy Arruda, Joan Barney, Rita Chapdelaine, Kathleen Correia, Elisabeth Figueirido, Ernestina Furtado, Jeanette Harrison, Patricia Lapan, Nancy Matteos, Joyce Medeiros, Rochelle Mingola*, Bryna Patrick, Janice Pina, Linda Velazquez

LIBRARY AIDE I: Cecile Peters*, Jean Bestel, Shaune McCarthy, Sharon Ann Wilson

BOOKMOBILE DRIVER: Joseph Soares*, Antonio Silva

PRINCIPAL CLERK: Yvonne Lacoste**, Diana Wunschel

BOOKKEEPER: Mary Freitas

SUPERVISOR OF BUILDINGS & CUSTODIANS: Harris Garland

SENIOR CUSTODIAN: George Arruda

BUILDING CUSTODIANS: Jose Bretal, David Brisson, Barbara Caton, Wendell Nooth, Henry Silva, Joseph Taylor

MONITORS: David King*, Manuel Lopes, Henrique Madeira, Frank Tavares

Pages: Lori Barriteau*, Martha Bourque, Carol Camaioni, Jennifer Cormier, Lisa Ferreira*, Robert Eldridge, Paul Horvitz, Gordon Manson*, Alda Rego, Katharine Swintak

SUBSTITUTES: Janine Azar*, Mary E. Butler, Maria Carvalho, Shirley Cohen*, Jane Constant, Zelia Cordeiro, Kathryn Dziuba, Janice Fauteux, Maria Hamdi, Robert Henry*, Kimberly Lincoln*, Perscell McNeil, Mary Jane Moraes, Thelma Paine, Lily Petty*, Dorris Pitts*, Nancy Plante, David Rezendes*, Margaret Riley, Theresa Ritchot, Donna Scholosser*, Brenda Shepherd, Beverly Souza*, Randalyn Strickland, Doreen Travassos, Mary Vidal, Johanna Walsh

* Denotes resignation
** Denotes retirement

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE NEW BEDFORD FREE PUBLIC LIBRARY

The New Bedford Free Public Library is a system consisting of a main library, four branch libraries and a bookmobile. The Wilks Branch is in the north end, the Buttonwood Branch is in the west end and both the Howland-Green and Casa da Saudade Branches are located in the south end of the city. The bookmobile visits schools, day care centers, housing projects, and neighborhoods throughout the city.

New Bedford also serves as sub-regional headquarters for the libraries of Acushnet, Carver, Cuttyhunk, Dartmouth, Fairhaven, Fall River, Freetown, Marion, Mattapoisett, Rochester, Somerset, Swansea, Wareham, and Westport. As a sub-regional headquarters, as provided for by the Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners through the Eastern Regional System, the New Bedford Free Public Library has the responsibility of providing support service to these libraries.

The libraries of the New Bedford sub-region have had a long history of working cooperatively. It was appropriate that they saw fit to realign themselves as a group in the formation of an automation network, S.E.A.L. (South Eastern Automated Libraries).

The libraries of New Bedford, through this reciprocal support and the efforts of a dedicated staff, strive to provide the best possible service to the residents of our community.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE NEW BEDFORD FREE PUBLIC LIBRARY

JULY 1, 1986 - JUNE 30, 1987

To the Honorable John K. Bullard, Mayor, members of the City Council and the Board of Library Trustees of the City of New Bedford, I respectfully submit the Annual Report of the Free Public Library for July 1, 1986 through June 30, 1987.

With a continued commitment to the expansion and development of library service to the community of New Bedford, the Mayor and City Council saw fit to provide funding for FY'87 which made possible the enhancement of that service.

Additional part time staff made it possible to open on Saturdays branch libraries which had been closed on that day since 1979. Also in FY'87, the position of Programming and Public Relations was established. Mary Anne McGuire was promoted to fill this new position. The purpose of this position is to provide a constant link between the library and the community with the help of the media, develop new relationships throughout the greater New Bedford area and encourage use of library service.

The Public Relations person, with the support of staff, is responsible for the widespread and intense promotion of all the library activities. Success is measured in the ever increasing numbers of participants at programs and users taking advantage of library services being offered.

The re-establishment of and funding for the position of Supervisor of Buildings and Custodians also took place in FY'87. Harris Garland filled this position in March 1987. The value of this position will be evident as time goes on.

An equally important decision, was made by the Library Trustees when, in 1987, they voted to support the recommendation to establish the classification of Pre-Professional Librarian. It was realized that, not only was the addition of staff important, but equally so, was the level. Staff members who have a bachelors degree and are pursuing a Master of Library Science Degree are eligible for the Pre-Professional position. This was proposed as an incentive; a path for college graduates interested in a career in library service.

The establishment of the Pre-Professional classification will be a significant step in the growth and professional development of the New Bedford Free Public Library system. The existence of this career path and the eventual M.L.S. degrees which will be obtained, will assist in the filling of professional positions when vacancies arise.

During '87 two library staff members, Carol Bellefeuille, who recently completed her B.A., and Ernestina Furtado who had had her B.A. for several years, were accepted and began graduate studies in library science at Simmons College.

The Board of Trustees also upgraded the education requirement for the Librarian II position from "MLS preferred or B.A./B.S. plus five years appropriate library experience" to "MLS required".

Staff leaves of absence were several. During FY'87 four members of the library staff were out on maternity leave. New mothers were Maria Robertson, Bryna Patrick, Patricia Lapan and Ann O'Leary. This wonderful addition to the library family did mean a time of staff shortages and frequent training of substitutes, and to those who were so cooperative during this period, we extend our appreciation.

Changes in personnel during this year include the promotion of Susan Anderson from Head of Howland-Green to Coordinator of Children's Services, and the promotion of Dolores Serode, a Librarian I in the Reference Department, to Head of Howland-Green.

After sixteen years with the library department, Yvonne Lacoste retired from the position of Head Administrative Clerk. Everyone extended best wishes to Yvonne at this wonderful time in her life.

PROPERTIES

The re-establishment of the position of Supervisor of Library Buildings and Custodians was of major importance. Five buildings, three nearly thirty years old, two about one hundred years, a bookmobile and a van, all must be closely monitored for maintenance, repairs and upgrading. The responsibilities of this Supervisor are closely related to the protection and enhancement of the city's investment in these buildings and vehicles.

The architectural firm of Preservation Partnership was employed to prepare a system wide report on the conditions of all library buildings and recommendations for immediate and long term action. Preservation Partnership was also employed to prepare specifications for the repair of the Buttonwood roof.

The preliminary study indicates severe deterioration of the Casa da Saudade building and roof structure deterioration at the Buttonwood Branch. The main library has been severely affected by leaks.

The Veterans Memorial Bell, on the southeast corner of the main library property, was relocated to the front of the building. The Temple Memorial, to be installed in July '87, and the Whaleman Statue will flank the Bell.

Handicapped parking was established in front of the Buttonwood Branch.

New carpeting was installed throughout the Casa da Saudade Library.

We continued to appeal to Chief Richard Benoit for police visits to all of the libraries. A meeting with three of the police captains offered an opportunity to express the need for the assistance.

Slow but steady improvement to the library grounds is being made following a very valid premise: if the libraries are attractive on the outside, they will entice more visitors inside.

A concerted effort has been made to develop in all maintenance staff pride in the appearance of all of the buildings. We are not only caring for libraries, but also city buildings which should be looked at as an example of good care.

A compilation of photos, slides and written description of all library art, paintings and sculpture (excluding photos and prints) was done by John Page, a Swain School graduate. Three copies of this document were prepared for reference and inventory of the library collection.

CHILDREN'S SERVICES

Several hundred children participated in library programs offered throughout the year.

Of primary importance is the fact that staff encouraged and nurtured the interest of youngsters in using the library. By eliminating the requirement that a child be able to write his/her name in order to obtain a library card, it is hoped parents will be encouraged to bring in the very young and introduce their pre-schoolers to the joys of books and reading. Possession of one's "very own" library card is exciting.

Programs, story hours, puppet shows and films, were offered to reach out to children who have not yet used the libraries and to retain and excite those who have.

"Catch the Crook", the six week summer reading and activity program took place at all libraries throughout the city.

"Dragon Stew", a puppet show adapted by our Children's Coordinator, Sue Anderson, was performed by the children's department staff throughout the system. This activity brought widespread attention to Children's Book Week in November.

During the school year, Ms. Anderson participated with City Councillor Cynthia Kruger, in a project supported by the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Quality Engineering on hazardous waste. The creation of the character Hazardous Harry, by Sue Anderson, was one attempt at instructing children about a serious issue in an attractive and captivating way.

Santa Claus for the hearing impaired was a unique and very moving library program. Brenda Cardoza, herself hearing impaired, spoke to deaf children in sign language. For many, this was the first time they had "spoken" with Santa. Tears were not absent as many staff looked on.

Oriental Week was celebrated throughout the libraries with programs on Origami, Japanese Food Tasting, Oriental Folk Tale Telling and Craft Day.

Tall Tale Bookshelf Contest was held and each of ten children out of one hundred and ninety one participants was awarded a $5.00 book gift certificate, donated by Mary Maciel, a former Trustee.

Class visits and story hours were held on an ongoing basis all year long. Hundreds of children from New Bedford schools, public and parochial, visited all of the libraries. Special programs were planned, tours and library instruction offered.

Ms. Anderson also worked with the Chapter I Project of the New Bedford Public Schools, conducting one and participating in four other programs offered to encourage parents to read to their children.

ADULT PROGRAMS

New Bedford celebrated the bicentennial of its incorportion in 1787. The library's main contribution to this celebration was a lecture series on New Bedford's history. Thomas McMullin on "The Coming of the Mills: Social Change in Late Nineteenth Century New Bedford"; Marilyn Halter and Ronald Barboza on "From Archipelago to America: A Cape Verdean Odyssey"; Paul Cyr on "Nineteenth Century New Bedford Libraries"; and William McFeeley on "Frederick Douglass' New Bedford Years". The series was organized by the Special Collections Department Head Paul Cyr and Public Relations person Mary Anne McGuire.

The library Special Collections Department, under Curator Paul Cyr, assisted hundreds of New Bedford sixth grade school children with their historical research on New Bedford 200 years ago. It became an opportunity for them to discover their library as well as their city.

In celebration of the bicentennial of the U.S. Constitution, the library offered a lecture by Judge George Leighton, U.S. District Court of Chicago, on the Constitution and the men who created it two hundred years ago. Judge Leighton is a native of New Bedford.

The series, "Myths and Marriages", funded by a grant from the Massachusetts Foundation for Humanities and Public Policy, was a book discussion series offered by the Buttonwood Branch Head, Sharon Pinho, with the cooperation of library staff and Friends of the Library President, Phyllis Brody. Lecturing scholars from various institutions presented background information on the author and content of each book. Participants offered their thoughts and opinions.

Programs were offered for library staff from the libraries of surrounding towns by our Sub-Regional Services Department: "Public Relations and Promotion" by Carl Eastman of Northeastern University; "Role of Public Libraries in the Technological Future" by Arthur Curley, Director of the Boston Public Library; and "Management of Staff and Patrons" by A.J. Anderson of Simmons College.

COMMUNITY RELATIONS

Community rooms of all of the libraries which are handicapped accessible were regularly used for public meetings and programs.

Graduate Equivalency Diploma (GED) classes and English as a Second Language classes were held at Casa da Saudade, Wilks, Howland-Green and the Main Library.

Wilks, Howland-Green and Buttonwood all participated in Project ShipShape, as headquarters for their respective neighborhood clean-up effort.

The Main Library building was open on December 31, 1986 for the celebration of First Night '87. Henry James' puppet shows were presented to a packed audience all evening. Many staff participated and shared in the excitement of New Bedford's First Night.

The Lunch Time Concert series, introduced by Risa Goldberg, Head of the Reference Department, became a weekly event all summer long.

GIFTS AND GRANTS

The Philip and Roberta S. Barnet Endowment Fund was established by Library Trustee Roberta Barnet in memory of her husband Philip with a gift to the library of $10,000.00. The interest from this fund will be used for the purchase of books on Jewish culture and for staff continuing education.

A visit to the Casa da Saudade, John Aguiar, Branch Head, by Dr. Anibal Cavaco Silva, Prime Minister of Portugal, was a memorable occasion for all who participated in the event.

The Friends of the New Bedford Free Public Library, Phyllis Brody, President, donated $500.00 to the lunch-time concerts offered in front of the main library, and funded the restoration and framing of the Frederick Law Olmsted Plan of Buttonwood Park. The plan is now displayed at Buttonwood Branch Library.

"Friends" also assisted the library with summer and special programs for children with a gift of $650.00, and sponsor on-going copier machine service at each of the city libraries.

Arts and Entertainment Network, through Whaling City Cable, donated a video cassette recorder, monitor, cassettes and books to the library. This equipment is housed at Buttonwood.

Saddie Noll donated a bust of Shakespeare, white in color and nine inches in height, crafted by her son Paul Noll, a Swain School graduate. This bust is displayed in the Reference Room.

The New Bedford Free Public Library received the following grants:

$9,996.00 for "Teen Scene" from the Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners, a program that took place in the spring of 1987 at Howland-Green and Wilks Branch libraries. The goal of this project was to attract teens to use materials and become comfortable with services offered by the library. Over one hundred teens participated in this program which established a link with the "teen" population.

$2,308.00 for "Video Ourtreach", for the purchase of video equipment, camera, recorder and tripod for the Casa da Saudade Branch to record special ethnic activities and for instruction of children in video taping.

SERVICES

Library service is most noticeably measured by circulation; the borrowing of materials from our libraries. Circulation has increased, though slightly, with some indication of a change in the previous downward trend. The strain of staff changes, in large part due to maternity leave, was heavily felt at the main library.

Efforts are being made to address those problems which appear to be the cause of this decrease. The availability of copier machines at three locations in the main building does have an effect on the number of items borrowed from that building.

An increase in reference queries indicates an increase in use of the collection, though not an increase in loans. The Reference Department, Risa Goldberg, Head, has concentrated its efforts on the reorganization of several services and the updating of material. Outreach to visiting classes of young adults and visits outside of the library has been a priority.

The availability of library materials begins with the Technical Services Department, Pauline Bolduc, Head. This department handles all of the ordering, receiving, classifying and processing of new material. Streamlining of procedures during 1987 began to address the speed with which new material gets to the public. Greater advancements are anticipated as the library system moves toward automation of many technical service procedures.

Video cassettes are now available at all of the libraries.

The current newspaper collection was moved from the third floor rotunda area to the lower floor reading area, where greater staff attention can be provided.

During FY'87, formidable steps were taken in the establishment of an automated network of the libraries in the New Bedford Sub-region. In October 1986 S.E.A.L. (South Eastern Automated Libraries) received a Library Service and Construction Act Grant for the planning of an automated system. Ruth Brown Chamberlain was the Coordinator assisting the New Bedford Sub-Region in this plannning process. A grant was also received for the actual implementation of the automated system. It is anticipated that by 1989 a good part of library services in the libraries of greater New Bedford will be on-line.

The process of automating libraries makes library work a great deal more complicated than in "pre-automation" times. The purpose however, is both desirable and attainable - to make all library holdings available to every potential patron. Realistically, in the very near future, every item cataloged by any library in S.E.A.L. will be recorded in a common area-wide database.

I would like to extend our appreciation to Mayor John K. Bullard for his encouragement and inspiration, to the members of the Board of Library Trustees for their dedication and committment to the public library and to the New Bedford City Council for its financial support which has made ideas become reality.

I would like to recognize the staff of the New Bedford Free Public Library. The personal and professional commitment of our staff has made it possible to undertake new programs, to improve those that already existed and to strive toward serving our community with the best library service.

Respectfully submitted,

Rosemary Medeiros
Library Director

CIRCULATION STATISTICS

FIVE-YEAR COMPARISON TO 1970

›cation	1970	82-83	83-84	84-85	85-86	86-8
›ntral	125,542	160,623	162,584	160,045	153,369	136,19
.lks	76,673	68,835	64,523	62,142	61,834	66,87
ttonwood	67,670	45,480	45,537	42,977	51,371	58,57
›wland-Green	49,849	48,001	43,456	34,895	28,516	34,19
›okmobile	45,573	29,536	38,933	33,079	33,470	41,00
.sa da Saudade	----	50,637	45,715	45,747	47,473	45,16
l Branches	239,765	242,489	238,164	218,840	222,664	245,81
tire System	365,307	403,112	400,748	378,885	376,033	382,00

REFERENCE COMPARISONS

nter Only	9,406	15,466	15,374	14,694	13,364	18,97

ANNUAL REPORT FISCAL 1987

NEW BEDFORD FREE PUBLIC LIBRARY

FISCAL REPORT July 1, 1986--June 30, 1987

RECEIPTS

City of New Bedford		$953,794.83
Commonwealth of Massachusetts (State Aid)		49,239.00
Eastern Massachusetts Regional Library System Appropriation		107,220.00
Bequest Funds:		
Balance July 1, 1986	2,579.22	
Income	$122,185.65	124,764.87
		1,235,018.70

DISBURSEMENTS

Salaries		$899,065.84
Library Materials		191,601.09
Operation:		
Library Processing	$ 19,313.62	
Utilities	48,391.36	
Building Maintenance & Repairs	26,806.09	
Office Supplies	4,434.61	
Office Equipment	1,858.99	
Transportation	447.15	
Janitorial & Custodial	3,395.64	
Advertising	668.30	
Other	7,544.02	
Maintenance of Heating Systems	2,069.72	$114,929.50
Bequest Funds-Balance June 30, 1987		3,013.16
Eastern Region, to be spent by September 15		26,409.11
		$1,235,018.70

NEW BEDFORD FREE PUBLIC LIBRARY

FISCAL 1987 Private Funds

NAME OF FUND	ON HAND 6/30/86	RECEIVED 1986-1987	EXPENDED 1986-1987	BALANCE 6/30/87
Frederik S. Allen	$692.39	$ 61.29	$ 55.88	$697.80
Casa da Saudade	33.74	-0-	22.85	10.89
James B. Congdon	38.66	73.78	81.10	31.34
George O. Crocker	55.60	613.92	519.05	150.47
Oliver Crocker	38.91	61.29	59.64	40.56
George Howland, Jr.	269.28	69.28	55.61	282.95
Sylvia Ann Howland	218.04	10,887.05	10,841.67	263.42
Susan Jones	45.05	857.84	752.30	150.59
Kempton Fund/Gift of Sarah E. Potter	206.53	30,632.00	30,716.44	122.09
Elizabeth B. Mackie	41.60	61.29	37.85	65.04
Charles W. Morgan	61.48	61.29	66.75	56.02
Bernard A. Perry	83.53	108.01	80.00	111.54
Deborah B. Tripp/Gift of Clara L. Tripp	372.05	2,052.85	2,038.21	386.68
Florence Waite	15.89	894.79	687.60	223.08
Patty Wilcox	35.16	332.99	104.32	263.83
Sylvia Ann Howland Green Wilks	336.77	75,278.81	75,554.69	60.89
Charles Wood	34.54	139.17	77.75	95.96
Totals	2,579.22	122,185.65	121,751.71	3,013.16

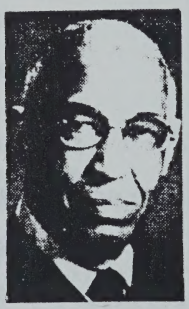
The New Bedford Free Public Library

presents a

New Bedford Bicentennial Lecture Series

Judge Leighton, U.S. district judge for the Northern District of Illinois, is a New Bedford native. He returned to his roots last week as part of the Free Public Library's Bicentennial Lecture series.

He asked the audience to look closely at the economics, politics and social atmosphere surrounding the 1787 convention in Philadelphia.



Judge Leighton

Deaf kids meet Santa

Staff photo by Ron Rico

Speaking her language

A foster child communicates her Christmas wishes to Santa Claus in sign language. The signing Santa visited the New Bedford Public Library Tuesday as a service for the hearing-impaired.

Photo by David Arruda Jr.

Learning art in the library

What more appropriate subject for an art class at the library than books covers? That's what Matthew Dumas, left, and brother Michael set to work on Saturday at the Howland-Green branch of the New Bedford Free Public Library. The classes, taught by Rebecca Broadbent, cover sketching, drawing and cartooning for children age 8 and older.